

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein; Claims 21-43 are being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. Claims 21-43 respectively correspond to claims 8-17, 22-29, and 46-50 which were non-elected in Divisional Application Serial Number 10/372,617.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 21-43 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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